

Wado Pentecost Seminar 2024 in Berlin

Living tradition in Wado Ryu

By Christina Gutz

110 Wado karateka from Austria, Belgium, Finland and Germany and a large group from Hungary met for the traditional Wado Pentecost Seminar 2024 in Berlin. The seminar was led by Shuzo Imai, 9th Dan Wado Ryu, Takamasa Arakawa, 6th Dan JKF Wado-Kai, Bernd Alscher, 7th Dan Wado Ryu, and Christina Gutz, 7th Dan Wado Ryu.

This Wado seminar was characterized by high motivation and concentration of all participants and by the fun that participants and instructors shared during the entire seminar.

Living tradition in Wado Ryu

Wado Ryu was founded by Hironori Otsuka (1892 - 1982). In 1939 it was registered in the Dai Nippon Butokukai in Kyoto, and in 1942 the Wado Ryu curriculum was supplemented by Otsuka under the title "Technical System of Wadoryu".¹

At this year's Wado Pentecost Seminar, the diversity of Wado ryu was taught by Imai, Arakawa, Gutz and Alscher: kihon, kata with kaisetsu, idori, kihon kumite, kumite gata, ohyo kumite, tanto dori and jiyu kumite. The "common thread" of the seminar followed by the four senseis were essential principles of Wado Ryu such as sente, ilrimi, tai sabaki, san-mi-ittai, tai otoshi and chushin tadasu. Always present was the ability to act out of relaxation, which is an important prerequisite for flowing, dynamic, fast and effective techniques. It was a particular pleasure to welcome Takamasa Arakawa back to Berlin after five years. He provided the participants with in-depth knowledge of the kata and kaisetsu of the kata Naihanchi, Chinto, Wanshu and Niseishi. Arakawa was also able to inspire with his self-defense training and his kumite exercises for competition.

It was great to deepen friendships, make new contacts, exchange ideas and train together at this Wado Pentecost Seminar.

Dan examinations

The Dan examinations held as part of the Wado Pentecost Seminar were passed:

German Karate Association: for 1st Dan: Marcus Drews, for 3rd Dan: Nóra Izsó, for 4th Dan: Wolfgang Deicke and Torsten Moschny, for 6th Dan: Attila Szöcs.

JKF Wado-Kai: to 1st Dan: Ramóna Kádár and Norbert Nagy, to 2nd Dan: Chrisley Philippart, Nóra Horváth, Nóra Izsó, to 3rd Dan: Pascal Joly, to 5th Dan: Attila Szöcs

Reunion

We look forward to seeing you again at the **2025 Wado Pentecost Seminar** with **Koichi Shimura Sensei** (8th Dan JKF Wado-Kai, Chairman of the JKF Wado-Kai Technical Committee) in Berlin.

¹ "Technical System of Wadoryu" By Dr. Fujiwara, presented in 'Wadokai 60 years' Registered at Butokukai, Kyoto (1939) and revision at Tojo Butokukai, (T. B.) (1942 – 1945)

http://www.wadokai.se/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10&Itemid=10 (Stand: 15.06.2019)

Mario McKenna: An Overview of Karate-dó. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 2009.